

Application No. 10/802,984

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, entered in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently amended) A piston pin, comprising:

~~a tubular body having a coated piston pin cylindrical exterior margin, at least a portion of the exterior margin being coated with a chromium-nitride coating, the coated portion of the exterior margin being bearinglessly shiftably matable with an inside margin of a pin bore of a connecting rod, the inside margin of the pin bore having a surface formed of a material that is common with a material forming the connecting rod, a mating of the coated cylindrical exterior margin of the tubular body with the inside margin of the bore being in a shiftable surface to surface engagement.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (currently amended) The piston pin of claim 21, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited by physical vapor deposition.

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4. (Currently amended) The piston pin of claim 21, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.
5. (Original) The piston pin of claim 4, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of substantially 5 microns.
6. (Currently amended) The piston pin of claim 21, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed after deposition.
7. (Original) The piston pin of claim 6, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed in a centerless buffing operation.
8. (Currently amended) A piston pin [[.]] and a connecting rod combination comprising:
the a piston pin having a tubular body, the tubular body exterior margin, at least a portion of the exterior margin having a coated cylindrical exterior margin coating being comprised of chromium-nitride, the coated portion of the exterior margin being bearinglessly shiftably matable with an inside margin of a pin bore of the connecting rod ; and the connecting rod being formed of a certain material, the inside margin of the pin bore having a surface formed of the certain material forming the connecting rod, the a mating of the pin bore with the piston pin being a shiftable surface to surface engagement.
9. (Canceled)

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10. (Currently amended) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim [[9]]8, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited by physical vapor deposition.
11. (Currently amended) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim [[9]]8, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.
12. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 11, the chromium-nitride coating being deposited to a depth of substantially 5 microns.
13. (Currently amended) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim [[9]]8, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed after deposition.
14. (Original) The piston pin, connecting rod combination of claim 13, the chromium-nitride coating being buffed in a centerless buffering operation.
15. (Currently amended) A method of forming a piston pin, comprising:
forming a tabular piston pin body having [[a]] an cylindrical exterior margin;
coating at least a portion of the cylindrical exterior margin with a selected chromium-
nitride material;
forming the surface margin of a connecting rod pin bore of a certain material, including
the surface of a pin bore material, the certain being common with a material
employed in forming the connecting rod; and
bearinglessly mating the coated portion of the exterior margin of piston pin with the
inside margin surface of the pin bore in a shiftable inside surface to surface
engagement.

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16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[16]]15 including depositing the chromium-nitride coating by physical vapor deposition.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[16]]15 including depositing the chromium-nitride coating to a depth of between 1 and 10 microns.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[16]]15, including depositing the chromium-nitride coating to a depth of substantially 5 microns.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[16]]15 including buffering the chromium-nitride coating after deposition prior to mating the exterior margin of piston pin with the inside margin of the pin.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, including buffering the chromium-nitride coating in a centerless buffering operation.